

REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly considered the final Office action dated August 27, 2007. Claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19-46 are presented in the application for further examination. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants request that the Examiner consider and initial the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 30, 2003 and the first page of the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 10, 2006.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-45 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-3 and 5-45 of Application No. 10/044,565. Because a response was not filed for an Office action dated 2/9/2007, Application No. 10/044,565 was abandoned on 8/9/2007. Therefore, the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn and the claims as submitted are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 24, 36 and 39 are allowable over the cited art. The claims depending from these claims are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

It is felt that a full and complete response has been made to the Office action and, as such, places the application in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. Although the prior art made of record and not relied upon may be considered pertinent to the disclosure, none of these references anticipates or makes obvious the recited invention. The fact that Applicants may not have specifically traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating Applicants' agreement therewith.

The Applicants wish to expedite prosecution of this application. If the Examiner deems the application as amended to not be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss making an Examiner's amendment to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or overpayment of any required fee during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank R. Agovino/

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